

JPRS-SEA-90-022
25 JULY 1990



JPRS Report

East Asia

Southeast Asia

East Asia Southeast Asia

JPRS-SEA-90-022

CONTENTS

25 JULY 1990

BURMA

Karen Guerrillas Threaten To Kill Foreign Workers [Bangkok THE NATION 19 Jun]	1
Plans Made To Resettle Ex-Rebels at Thai Border [Bangkok THE NATION 15 Jun]	1
Half Million Citizens Relocated at Military's Whim [Bangkok THE NATION 15 Jun]	2
Khun Sa, Anti-Government Shans Strike Alliance [Bangkok THE NATION 15 Jun]	3
Troops Accused of Raping Karen Women [Bangkok THE NATION 20 Jun]	4
Anti-Rangoon Armed Resistance Groups Reject 1947 Constitution [Bangkok THE NATION 13 Jun] ...	4

INDONESIA

Increase of Illegal Workers in Malaysia Reported [KOMPAS 27 Jun]	6
--	---

LAOS

Timber Tax Regime Described [Bangkok NAEON 18 Jun]	7
--	---

MALAYSIA

Mahathir Warns Against Anti-Federation Issue in Sabah Elections [BERITA HARIAN 18 Jun]	8
Prime Minister Promises Full Employment, Supports GSP [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 18 Jun]	8
Comments on Opposition Leaders [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 19 Jun]	9
ISA Arrests in Sabah Not Seen As Political [BERITA HARIAN 17 Jun]	10

PHILIPPINES

Military Rebels Raise Funds Through Bank Robberies [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 2 Jul]	11
Dissident Plot Set Back by Hit List Seizure [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 21 Jun]	11

VIETNAM

MILITARY

Building of Navy Suggested for New Situation [TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN Apr]	13
Regiment's Quality Affected by Relaxation, Poor Discipline [QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 9 May] ...	15

ECONOMIC

1990 Trade With Socialist Countries Discussed [KINH TE DOI NGOAI 5 May]	17
Trade Goals Discussed at Meeting Held by Commerce Minister [KINH TE DOI NGOAI 5 May]	18
Crossborder Smuggling in Minh Hai Continues [KINH TE DOI NGOAI 5 May]	18
Report on Timber Export Corruption Case, Vice Minister's Involvement [NHAN DAN 7 May] ...	19

SOCIAL

Major Problems in Ho Chi Minh City Discussed [NHAN DAN 15 Jun]	20
--	----

Karen Guerrillas Threaten To Kill Foreign Workers

42000100B Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
19 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Karen rebel leader Bo Mya has threatened to assassinate Americans and other foreigners working in Burma in a hardening of strategy despite a pro-democracy victory in the Southeast Asian nation's recent general elections.

"Anyone helping the Burmese government is our enemy," Gen Bo Mya told Agence France-Presse in a surprising toughening of his line after the party of populist leader Aung San Suu Kyi swept general elections in Burma May 27.

Karen troops kidnapped a young French couple in 1983 and held them for 38 days to draw international attention to their fight for regional autonomy. Young commando leaders have said in recent months that they were now ready to target Japanese or Americans.

Ms Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy has won three quarters of seats in the 420-seat parliament according to official returns of the May 27 poll with the count still continuing. But the ruling military junta has so far said nothing of a transfer of power.

Gen Bo Mya, whose 5,000-10,000 strong Karen army has been fighting in Burma's longest-running of some 12 insurgencies, said he doubted the ruling junta would hand over power to the elected party.

"If they give power smoothly then there will be peace. If they don't then there will be no peace," he said at his jungle headquarters here on the Moei River marking the Thai-Burmese border, 200 kms northeast of Rangoon.

The portly guerrilla leader, who is in his 50s and has headed the Karen insurgency since 1975, said the foreigners had "at least one year" to heed his warning.

"If they come and get understanding with us, then it's okay, no problem," he said in Karen through an interpreter.

"If that fails we'll go in and assassinate them, not only Americans, anybody, all foreigners," he said.

He said the targets were "company people, businessmen, not the diplomats."

"The international community can see very clearly that the present government is the worst and so we ask them not to give any help in any form to them," Gen Bo Mya said.

The Karens have lost six bases along the river since generals launched an offensive against them after seizing power in September 1988 to quash pro-democracy mass protests.

Thousands of students fled central Burma after the coup to join the Karens, who until their defeats had almost undisputed control of lucrative teak forests and smuggling routes.

Diplomats have said the foreign-exchange-strapped Rangoon regime funded the offensive at least in part by contracts signed since the coup with Western oil companies and Thai timber and fishery firms. They were the first foreign investors since Gen Ne Win set up a xenophobic form of socialist dictatorship in 1962 which isolated and impoverished the resources-rich land.

American and other Western oil experts now work in Rangoon and on-shore sites in northern Burma.

Bo Mya said foreigners "come in and it is already a negative effect on the revolution. The counter action is to correct that negative action."

He said the military situation has not changed since the elections.

"We see that the enemy is planning as before to launch offensives."

But he said the Karens, and the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), which groups the ethnic insurgents with majority Burman opposition groups, were ready "to match any development inside."

The generals "will not hand over power easily. So there will be no peace if they refuse to hand over power. Everybody will be against the military," Gen Bo Mya said.

This could lead to a popular uprising, something for which the DAB is planning, he said.

The DAB has reconciled Burmans, the ethnic group which controls the army and government base in Rangoon, with the ethnic minorities, he said.

Plans Made To Resettle Ex-Rebels at Thai Border

42000095C Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
15 Jun 90 p 5

[Text] The Burmese government plans to resettle former insurgents, homeless villagers and destitute people along the embattled border with Thailand.

Rangoon radio said 13.5 million kyats (\$2 million) had been earmarked for resettlement projects in the Karen and Mon border states during 1990-91.

"The government is pushing hard to develop these areas to reduce their dependency on smuggling as well as to neutralize the insurgents," said one Western diplomat contacted by telephone in Rangoon.

A transcript of Sunday's broadcast was seen in Bangkok yesterday.

Karen and Mon ethnic guerrillas are two of about a dozen groups that have been fighting for autonomy from

the Burman-dominated Rangoon government since independence from Britain more than 40 years ago.

People in the resettlement plan came "from insurgent groups who have surrendered to the authorities after regretting their mistakes, villagers who have left their homeland because of threats from insurgents, and destitutes," the radio said.

They would be given free food and lodging for two months and up to 7,000 kyats (\$1,076) worth of wood, bamboo and thatch grass to build their own homes.

Thousands of Burmese have been forcibly resettled to new towns from densely-populated areas of Rangoon and Mandalay, often without running water and electricity. Diplomats said the resettlements may have been aimed at breaking up potential centers of anti-government unrest.

Meanwhile, as vote counting continued for the May 27 elections in which the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) won a parliamentary majority, Rangoon Radio has accused Western diplomats of secretly meeting opposition party officials to stir up unrest.

"Diplomats from some embassies in Myanmar [Burma] have not been observing diplomatic norms. They have been secretly meeting several personages and youths from some parties and have been instigating trouble," the radio said in a separate broadcast.

Western diplomats in Rangoon denied the charge angrily, saying ambassadors from most embassies had been visiting the NLD in broad daylight.

The official election result is expected to be announced later this week.

Half Million Citizens Relocated at Military's Whim

42000095B Bangkok THE NATION in English
15 Jun 90 p 5

[Text] Burma's ruling generals are taking a direct approach to city planning, forcibly moving people by the hundreds of thousands to three new towns on the outskirts of Rangoon.

One of the sites, Hlaingthaya, is a sprawling settlement of some 100,000 people in bamboo houses.

Situated in what were rice fields, the town suffers from flooding in the current monsoon season, and residents have been forced to raise their rickety homes on stilts and install makeshift bridges to get to their front doors.

Hlaingthaya has no electricity and only a small clinic. The two other new towns outside Rangoon suffer less flooding but are no less rudimentary.

Foreign Minister Director General Ohn Gyaw said that half a million people have been moved to the towns, set

up since generals seized power in September 1988 after putting down pro-democracy protests.

Neither those evacuated nor farmers whose lands were taken away were given a choice, residents here said.

They complained of long commutes to their jobs and the hospitals, markets and other conveniences of the capital.

Diplomats and many of the evacuees said the ruling junta's housing programme was aimed at eliminating pockets of political opposition in Rangoon, where hundreds of thousands marched in the 1988 democracy movement.

Saw Saw is a 41-year-old civil servant with nine children who lived for 10 years in a northern Rangoon neighborhood whose residents had streamed into the city center for the demonstrations.

After the government classified her as a squatter, she had to pay 1,500 kyats (\$250 at the official rate) for a plot of land here six by 18 meters.

Her house and goods were moved free of charge on army trucks.

"The simple fact is that the city of Yangon [Rangoon] was never planned to accommodate such a large population," the official Working People's Daily said in an editorial June 5.

The newspaper explained the relocations by saying "vagabonds, strays and people of no fixed abode... Live in monasteries, departmental compounds or in tiny squatters huts set up at any convenient place."

Rangoon is home to more than three million out of Burma's total population of 40 million.

Ohn Gyaw said in an interview that creating new towns was a long-standing policy under which several thriving townships had been created in and around Rangoon.

He denied charges that the junta had engaged in gerrymandering ahead of general elections May 27.

Diplomats said evacuees were from strongholds of the pro-democracy National League for Democracy (NLD) party, which opposes military rule and won a landslide victory in the ballot.

Hlaingthaya started with 7,000 families five years ago, moved after a fire in Rangoon. A new exodus began in December 1989, mostly of people who were daily wage earners in town.

Mrs Saw Saw said that she had been close to her job in Rangoon, but now had to take at least two bus rides and make a river crossing to get to work.

In addition to those moved out of the city, farmers have been displaced to make way for the newcomers.

Kyaw Hyint, 36, said that housing officials had seized eight of 15 acres he had in Hlaingthaya and that he now lived in a village near the new settlement.

Kyaw Hyint does not have a deed to his land and said he had no idea how he would complain about his plight. He said his lands belonged to his ancestors.

Travellers have also reported a major evacuation from the northern city of Pagan, home to a complex of temples considered one of the world's cultural treasures.

Khun Sa, Anti-Government Shans Strike Alliance

42000100A Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
15 Jun 90 p 5

[Text] Khun Sa's 20,000-men Muang Tai Revolutionary Army [MTRA] has agreed to cooperate with another Shan organization to fight Rangoon and bring about unity in the Shan State.

The agreement between the MTRA and the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) was reached during a meeting on April 23, said Khernsai Jaiyane, a close aide of Khun Sa.

The SSPP, which is allied with 20 other anti-Rangoon ethnic, Burmese dissident, student and monk groups under the name of the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB], could not be reached for confirmation. Members of the DAB are strongly against the drug trade, which is the main source of income for Khun Sa and his army.

The two Shan parties agreed to cooperate to achieve three objectives—unity between the two organizations, the unity of the Shan people and working for the benefit of the Shan people, Khernsai, chief liaison officer for Khun Sa, told *The Nation* over the weekend.

However, they would each go their own way in achieving the goals, he added.

Khernsai said the two groups, however, had not yet agreed on the issue of the Shan State's independence, which Khun Sa has claimed he and his army are fighting for.

The various ethnic groups in the DAB agreed in 1987 to live under a "genuine federal union without secession." They had earlier been fighting for their own independent states.

Khernsai quoted Khun Sa as saying that the demand for the Shan State's independence was the right of the Shan people, and had been granted to them before Burma's independence from Britain in 1948.

To win over the support of the Shan people Burma's national hero the late U Aung San promised during his meeting with Shan representatives in Panglong the right for the Shan State to secede 10 years after Burma's independence.

The promise was also incorporated in Burma's pre-independence 1947 constitution, said Khernsai, adding

that Khun Sa's Muang Tai Revolutionary Army and its political wing Tai Revolutionary Council would continue to fight Rangoon until the Shan State was free from Rangoon.

He claimed that the MTRA now had some 20,000 well-armed Shan soldiers. The number had increased from 15,000 after the pro-democracy uprising in 1988, he said.

Khernsai claimed that Khun Sa, who was indicted by Washington on 10 narcotic charges in March, was not directly involved in the narcotic trade but made a living from collecting tax and protection fees from traders, who passed through his territory.

Asked if he saw a possible chance of reconciliation between Rangoon and the MTRA on the independence issue, Khernsai any such move had to be initiated by Rangoon and "the Shan people would consider it."

It is they [Rangoon] who have to make the first move," he said.

Meanwhile, Gen Bo Mya, president of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, flatly rejected any plan to accept Khun Sa's Tai Revolutionary Council as a DAB member.

"The DAB cannot accept Khun Sa's group because we do not consider his party a political group. They are drug runners and his soldiers are only there to protect drug caravans," he said.

Bo Mya, leader of the Karen National Union, also refused to meet Khernsai over the weekend. Khernsai told *The Nation* that he had a message for the Karen general but did not reveal what he wanted to tell Bo Mya.

The appearance of Khernsai in Manerplaw, the DAB and Karen headquarters opposite Thailand's Mae Sariang district, surprised most of the DAB representatives who had gathered there for a four-day meeting starting last Tuesday. When approached, several of the DAB representatives echoed Bo Mya, saying that Khun Sa's group was not welcome.

Khernsai, when asked about the continued fighting between the MTRA and the United Wa State Party (UWSP), said his chief had already sent six letters to UWSP leader, Chao Yi-Lai, asking for a settlement of the conflict.

But the requests had gone unheeded by the UWSP, which was the main force of the now defunct Burma Communist Party, he said. The Wa faction toppled the hardline pro-Chinese communist leaders early last year.

The last clash occurred on May 31 from 7 am to 2 pm around hill 175 east of Mae Kok River opposite Thailand's Chiang Rai province in which three of Khun Sa's men were killed and five wounded, said Khernsai.

From a radio interception, the Wa suffered over 60 casualties, he said. Since late last year when the first shots were exchanged, there have been some 400 casualties, including 70 dead from Khun Sa's side and some 700 from the Wa and 400 more reported as missing in action, according to Khernsai.

He said the Wa had some 7,000 men under arms and volunteer militia men in every village.

Gen Bo Mya, president of the anti-Rangoon Democratic Alliance of Burma, was misquoted in a page 2 story in the June 13 issue of *The Nation* as dismissing the likelihood of a deal between the National League of Democracy (NLD) and the Rangoon govt. However Bo Mya said there was a possibility of a power sharing arrangement because one of the NLD wings was composed of ex-army officers and there was a good chance the two sides could talk.

We regret the error.

Troops Accused of Raping Karen Women

42000100C Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
20 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Four Karen women belonging to the group of over 1,000 refugees forcibly sent back to Burma by Thai authorities nearly two weeks ago were raped by Burmese soldiers, border villagers have charged.

In addition, some of the Burmese male returnees were pressed into the Burmese army to serve as porters, the villagers said.

But a senior Burmese Army officer in Myawaddy denied the charges saying 766 Burmese returnees were in detention in a school compound in Myawaddy, opposite this northern Thai district.

Maj Mya Maung Htun, deputy commander of the 97th extension battalion in Myawaddy, said over the weekend the returnees were being held pending investigations to find out if any committed crimes in Burma before fleeing to Thailand.

Those found guilty of wrongdoing would be punished. Those cleared would be sent back home, he added.

Thai authorities on June 7 forcibly repatriated over 1,000 Burmese refugees living in Mae Sot. Col Boonlue Srimek, deputy commander of the Task Force 34 in Mae Sot, said the action was taken because some of the illegal immigrants were creating crime problems in the area.

The living conditions of others residing in makeshift housing along the Moei River were causing sanitation hazards to neighboring residents, Boonlue said.

Humanitarian organizations have often criticized repatriation programmes by the Thai government for fear of the safety of the returnees. And Asia Watch, a U.S.-based human rights group, strongly criticized the latest Mae

Sot incident and urged the Thai government to halt such deportations and end arbitrary arrests and mistreatment of Burmese refugees.

Border villagers and some returnees, who managed to sneak back into Thailand, claimed that some of the repatriates were conscripted by the Burmese army as porters.

They also said that four Karen women were raped by Burmese troops in Thinganyinaung the night they were sent back to Burma. Thinganyinaung is about eight kilometers north of Myawaddy.

A border source quoted a Burmese woman, a friend of the raped Karens, as saying that troops took away the women from detention in Thinganyinaung.

One of the four managed to escape to Mae Sot but her whereabouts were not known, said the source, who was trying to locate her.

The source said he was told that the three other women were still being held in Thinganyinaung.

About 12 other repatriates, who tried to flee detention, were re-arrested and put in Myawaddy prison, according to villagers. Burmese authorities had to collect food from the villagers to feed them, the villagers added.

The villagers said the number of Burmese forcibly repatriated was over 1,000, but many managed to escape upon their arrival in Myawaddy. Up to 60 paid 1,000-1,500 kyat to Burmese authorities for their freedom.

Maj Mya Maung Hun confirmed that about 1,000 were deported from Mae Sot but a number had escaped because there were not enough official guards to control them. Currently in detention are about 300 men, 200 women and 225 children, he added.

The Burmese colonel said all the detainees would receive medical checkups, food and clothing. He denied charges that some of the returnees were conscripted or raped by Burmese soldiers.

The Burmese officer said the charges were trumped up to tarnish the reputation of the Burmese army.

He also denied that the repatriation was initiated by the Burmese army. He said the programme was the decision of Thai officials.

Anti-Rangoon Armed Resistance Groups Reject 1947 Constitution

42000095A Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
13 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] Anti-Rangoon armed ethnic groups have totally rejected Burma's 1947 constitution saying they will not accept any charter which does not recognize the equal rights and self-determination of all the races in the country.

They also called the military junta of Gen Saw Maung to immediately handover executive authority to the opposition National League for Democracy, which won a surprising landslide victory in the May 27 general elections.

Most of Burma's ethnic representatives, who are attending a meeting at the Karen headquarters in Mannerplaw, told THE NATION over the weekend that the 1947 constitution was unacceptable because the charter was based on a unitary and not a genuine federal system.

"We [the Democratic Alliance of Burma] will not accept the 1947 constitution which was based on the unitary system," said Gen Bo Mya, leader of the Karen National Union.

The Karen are one of over 10 ethnic groups allied with Burmese dissidents, students, and monks under the 21-member umbrella organization of Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB).

Leaders of the Arakan, Karenni, Mon, Burmese dissidents and students also flatly rejected the constitution.

Earlier reports from Rangoon said the National League for Democracy (NLD) had already prepared a draft constitution based on the 1947 charter to be introduced when the National Assembly convenes. Nothing is clearly known about the NLD's draft charter and its position on the ethnic people's issue.

"We want a genuine federal union of Burma which will give us the equal right of self-determination," said Saw Maw Reh of the Karenni National Progressive Party.

Leaders and representatives of the 21 groups are participating in a four-day meeting of the DAB central committee. The forum which started yesterday, is to draw up strategic plans in anticipation of changes to the political scene in Burma in the future.

According to Gen Bo Mya and some other ethnic participants, the multi racial people of the DAB now agreed to live under a "genuine federal union without secession."

This agreement was reached in 1987 when 10 ethnic groups of the National Democratic Front held a congress to decided on the issue. The Front, whose members also

belong to the DAB, has been waging a war against Rangoon for decades demanding autonomy.

"We want a genuine federal union without secession. Every ethnic group should be allowed to work together for the development and the benefit of a united country with each state having her own sovereignty in legislation and administration," said Bo Mya.

The federal government meanwhile, was to handle the country's foreign affairs, defence policies and the monetary system, he said, adding that each state would have her own security forces but under the supervision of the federal government.

The ethnic representatives also wanted to participate in the drafting of the new constitution.

"If the Burmese regime prolongs or refuses to handover power, there is only one alternative left for the DAB that is to fight to achieve democracy," said Bo Mya.

Questioned about the earlier report of a unilateral ceasefire, Bo Mya and other ethnic leaders flatly denied this.

"That is not true. We [DAB] have never mentioned this and we have no intention of doing this—neither DAB or KNU," said Bo Mya.

A ceasefire could take place only after negotiations and when democratic rights were guaranteed in the country, a genuine federal union was established with guaranteed equal rights to all ethnic people including the Burmans, he added.

He said the DAB would prefer to negotiate with the NLD which was the representative of the people.

The Karen general said a power-sharing scenario between the NLD and the Rangoon junta could not be a possibility because one of the League's wing was composed of ex-army officers, who would perhaps, compromise with the armed forces.

"For the time being we [the DAB] do not want to make a prediction, because strange things are happening in Burma. So this sharing of power is a possibility but at the same time there may also be other scenarios," said Bo Mya.

Increase of Illegal Workers in Malaysia Reported

90SE0073A Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
27 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS—The flow of Indonesian workers into Malaysia who enter the country illegally (without a permit) has recently been increasing. The reason is that the opportunities for finding jobs with relatively high wages in Malaysia are still very good. On the other hand Indonesian workers who wish to work in Malaysia with official permits have to comply with complicated procedures which cost a considerable amount of money. As a result, getting such jobs with official permits is out of their reach.

This view was stated in testimony before Committee X of the Indonesian Parliament given by Doctor Soekidjo, chief of the Research and Development Center of the Department of Manpower, in Jakarta on 27 June. Committee X is chaired by Dr. Markus Wauran of the PDI [Indonesian Democracy Party] faction.

Budi Walujo of the ABRI [Armed Forces] faction, who visited Malaysia in March 1990, reported that Malaysia at this time very much needs Indonesian workers in the sectors of estate agriculture, construction, manufacturing industry, and domestic service. He said: "The population of Malaysia itself, which is not very large, is not interested in working in those sectors. Instead, they are interested in working in the modern sector of the economy, which is also developing quickly in that country."

He advised the government to try harder to make use of the opportunities for employment still available in Malaysia to encourage the flow of Indonesian workers, whose number is steadily growing.

Astonishing

Budi Walujo's opinion was supported by H. Doedoeng Abdoelkarim, from the KP [Functional Development] faction, and H. Mohammad Musyafak, from the PP [Development Unity] faction. According to Doedoeng, illegal Indonesian workers who are moving into Malaysia in large numbers come from areas along the North coast of the Province of East Java and Bawean and Madura Islands.

As illegal workers these Indonesians are often forced to pay squeeze to irresponsible, employment agents. Although this is true, the remaining portion of the wages

which they earn by working hard in Malaysia is still adequate to live decently in Indonesia.

According to Doendoeng, based on testimony from the Indonesian workers, wages on plantations in the Malaysian Peninsula (Western Malaysia) are the equivalent of about 11,000 rupiahs per day. In this connection the most which they can obtain in Indonesia for this kind of work is about 2,000 rupiahs per day.

Mohammad Musyafak of the PP faction added that the flow of illegal Indonesian workers to Malaysia is increasing because they do not wish to face the complicated, official procedures, whose cost is rather high. For example, illegal Indonesian workers from Pacitan Regency (East Java) who take the easy way out when they go to Malaysia only need to pay about 120,000 rupiahs each. On the other hand, if they follow the official procedure (the AKA [Bilateral Labor Exchange] program), they must pay at least 800,000 rupiahs.

Status of Astek

Meanwhile, in a separate hearing, Committee VI of the Indonesian Parliament, chaired by M. S. Situmorang, heard testimony from Sutopo Yuwono, managing director of Perum Astek [Labor Social Insurance Company]. The question of protection of the workers received the attention of members of Parliament at the committee hearing.

Sutopo Yuwono said that under Government Regulation No. 19 of 1990, the government ordered changes in the legal status of Astek, turning it into a corporation. This action was intended to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of handling BUMN (State Owned Business Firms).

A member of Parliament was surprised to hear this statement. He said: "This change in status may create a conflict with the basic function of Astek, that is, giving priority to making profits from its business activity, while relegating its social function to second place."

However, Sutopo Yuwono declared that changing Astek's legal status into that of a corporation is intended to provide authority within Astek's range of activity to play a larger role in improving the protection of workers and their families. This change in legal status does not mean that the system of providing social insurance will change and that the company will devote itself to commercial insurance. He added: "Its operating practices will continue to be founded on social insurance which is basic, compulsory, and national in form."

Timber Tax Regime Described

90SE0066A Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 18 Jun 90 p 13

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A source in the timber trade on the Thai-Lao border told LOK THURAKIT NAE0 NA that after the announcement was made, the timber trade along the Thai-Lao border immediately became active. In the past this trade was very slow because, it was felt, the taxes were too steep, making importation uneconomical.

With the new taxes which were announced plus the import expenses, the price of imported timber was lower than that of domestic timber so that many timber merchants began to make contact with the administrative chairmen of the various provinces in Laos.

In any case there was a group of speculators willing to offer prices for timber in various provinces which were higher than expected in response to a tax adjustment of 10 to 20 percent. This caused the timber market to immediately become chaotic because it tended to make the timber price in Laos go up.

The administrative chairmen of those Lao provinces who had had indications of the price rise informed merchants who had been involved in the past that the contracts which had been made with Laos before this would not be affected but that the price might go up somewhat because prices were being offered which were higher than in the past.

"The timber trade with Laos will continue like this. Whenever there are profits, the price will be bid up. And in the end every time a higher price is offered it will be rejected because Laos will have raised the price as a result of the large demand in Thailand. This group has created a situation where companies hoping for long term trade with Laos will fail. The government should intervene and control the merchants who are causing the chaos in the timber market," the source said.

In the past the Lao government collected taxes on the logs and lumber exported as a percentage of their value. But Laos saw that these revenues were decreasing, so they changed the tax to one which would restore the forests and resources and charged a fee on special timber exported based on the cubic meters of timber and on ungraded logs which were exported.

The new tax for forest restoration was divided into charges for perennials and annuals. The resource tax and the special fee were collected according to three grades: "A", "B", "C", timber graded lower than "C" and branches, which were not permitted to be exported. This was done in order to be in keeping with the timber trade, and it played a part in lowering the timber tax and increasing revenues.

For instance teak was taxed as a perennial at 9,000 kip, and annuals were taxed at 3,000 kip. Before these were both taxed at 9,000 kip, and they were both charged the resource tax and the special fee of U.S.\$350. The new rate was U.S.\$21, and the resource tax and special fee totalled \$135 for grade "C" wood.

Mahathir Warns Against Anti-Federation Issue in Sabah Elections*90SE0070D Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 18 Jun 90 p 1*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 17 Jun—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today warned all political parties in Sabah to stop using the anti-Federal-Government issue in the state election campaign.

He said use of the issue will create feelings of suspicion between Peninsula and Sabah residents.

"This is not a healthy practice. If it is continued, I fear that the people will be divided and feelings of prejudice will arise between Peninsula and Sabah people.

"This is not good for unity and does not benefit anyone," he said after chairing a meeting of National Front (BN) members of Parliament prior to a parliamentary session.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is also chairman of the BN, said that people who use the anti-Federation issue should compare for themselves the development enjoyed by Sabah people with the development of states on the Peninsula.

"They cannot say that the Federal Government has not provided enough development for Sabah. If they will compare the state's development with that of Kelantan and Terengganu, they will see that they are better off," he said.

BERJAYA [Sabah People's Party] President Harris Salleh, who is a former Sabah chief minister, recently charged that the Federal Government has not kept its promise to develop Sabah.

Several others also have accused the government of failing to resolve the question of oil royalties and the problem of about 500,000 aliens in Sabah. They have raised these subjects as issues in the campaign leading to next month's state elections.

Meanwhile, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir was asked about the agreement that Datuk Dr. James Ongkili, president of the Sabah People's Party (PRS), made with Spirit of '46 President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. He said:

"That is his right. We are free to make decisions and determine our positions, but the important thing is that the people will decide the future of those persons.

"If the people want to elect persons who have no firm conviction but jump here and there like frogs and grasshoppers, that is up to them.

"The people should not be angry, however, if the persons they elect have the mentality of grasshoppers and establish a government without any direction. The people would simply cause problems for themselves," he said.

The prime minister said the people should keep a government with firm convictions.

Since independence, the government has successfully developed the country to the point that the international community recognizes it as the most advanced of the developing countries.

"Although racial harmony is not a hundred percent, our country at least does not have the racial disturbances that other countries have," he said.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said he is confident that the BN will win the state legislature by-elections in both Kijal (Terengganu) and Kuala Linggi (Malacca) districts.

Prime Minister Promises Full Employment, Supports GSP*90SE0070B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 18 Jun 90 pp 1, 2*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 17 Jun—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today guaranteed that the National Front (BN) government is able to eliminate unemployment in the country in the next five years.

The prime minister said that the unemployment rate, which is now at seven percent, can be reduced to about three percent in the next year or two and that unemployment can be eliminated several years after that.

He called on everyone to unite their efforts and cooperation in order to assure national stability, because such unity is the main prerequisite for reaching that goal.

"God willing, we will benefit from such good efforts and intentions. This not only is my promise but is also God's promise to his people," he said this afternoon to about 10,000 people gathered for his visit to the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] division at Lembah Pantai, Bukit C, Pantai Dalam, which is in the Bukit Angkasa housing area of Kampung Kerachi.

Earlier, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir had attended briefings at the MAYC Youth Building on Syed Putra Street regarding election preparations being made by UMNO divisions in the Federal Territory. The final briefing was presented by the deputy chairman of the UMNO Liaison Committee for the Federal Territory, Datuk Drs. Suleiman Mohamed.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that one important action that will continue to be taken by the government is adherence to the national labor policy, which can provide many employment opportunities to workers in the country.

He said that foreign investment activities, which rose sharply this year, will continue and that the government will multiply its efforts to attract more investors.

"Although foreign investors come seeking profits, our purpose is not to enrich them. It is more important to provide many jobs for our people," he said.

The prime minister said, however, that the government's desire to eliminate unemployment may be difficult to fulfill if most of the people have negative attitudes and do not want to cooperate.

Patience Needed

He said that the people must not only be patient in the face of certain shortcomings, but must also strive to maintain an atmosphere of security and peace.

"We must not be quick to criticize or strike, because such actions hurt the flow of foreign investments into the country.

"When such things happen, investors will focus on other countries that are more stable; and workers in this country will lose out," he said.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that the potential is good for higher wages and a better standard of living for workers in this country if foreign investment is active.

He also criticized leaders of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC), Zainal Rampak and V. David, for cooperating with U.S. authorities in the withdrawal of the General System of Preferences (GSP).

He said that the two MTUC leaders, who are also leaders of the Spirit of '46 and DAP [Democratic Action Party], have "have put sand in the rice bowls" of thousands of workers in this country.

"Their action not only could cause 130,000 electronics workers in the country to lose their jobs but could also destroy opportunities for a future generation of workers," he declared.

He called on everyone to realize the bad effects that the people will suffer if the efforts of these leaders to "destroy" the people's livelihood is successful.

He said such efforts would also dampen the economy, making people unable to pay living expenses or make purchases.

During the meeting, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is president of UMNO, said also that he hoped the people will be very enthusiastic in supporting the government in the next general elections, which may be held at any time.

"We must be patient and not lose enthusiasm as we await the elections," he said.

Also present at the meeting were the prime minister's wife, Datuk Sri Datin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali; the deputy chairman of the UMNO Liaison Committee for the Federal Territory, Datuk Drs. Suleiman Mohamad; chairman of the MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress] for the Federal Territory, S. Subramaniam; and Mayor Tan Sri Elyas Omar.

About 800 employees of Harris Malaysia attended the meeting and declared their support for government efforts to keep the GSP.

Earlier, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir inaugurated the Bukit Angkasa Housing Complex and the Abdaiah Islamic School and received briefings on housing projects in that area.

The prime minister, who was warmly welcomed, waved to the people who thronged him and shook hands with many after he spoke.

This was his first visit to UMNO divisions throughout the country to counter accusations and criticisms made by opposition parties and to prepare for the general elections.

Comments on Opposition Leaders

90SE0070A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 19 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Kampung Raja, 18 Jun—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said he will not be angry with Tunku Abdul Rahman regardless of what Tunku says about UMNO [United Malays National Organization] and himself, "because I will always respect him as the father of Malaysia and the father of independence."

The prime minister said that actually Tunku has been goaded by Spirit of '46 leaders.

Speaking today at a meeting of UMNO leaders of the Besut Division, Dr. Mahathir said he is not angry with Tunku because of what he has said because he knows that Tunku's words were instigated by Spirit of '46 leaders.

The prime minister said that Tunku is old and should sit at home "holding his tasbeeh [Muslim rosary] and praying to God."

He said Spirit of '46 leaders have not only goaded Tunku but have also interfered with, goaded, pressured, and criticized government officials.

The prime minister cautioned the people that the Spirit of '46 is a separate group which had nothing to do with the fight and spirit that UMNO demonstrated in 1946.

Still 'Runny Nosed'

"How can that party fight for what UMNO fought for in 1946, seeing that most of its leaders were then still 'runny nosed' children," he asked.

Furthermore, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said, UMNO has never cooperated with DAP [Democratic Action Party], as the Spirit of '46 is now doing.

"How can we vote for them to run the country when we know that DAP is a party that gives priority to personal interests and the interests of certain communal groups?" he asked.

He said DAP is led by a man who will not permit anyone to criticize his position and who will remove anyone who reproves him for his actions.

"Everyone knows that Deputy Secretary-General Lee Lam Thye is more popular than Lim Kit Siang, but it is impossible for Lee to move up or challenge Lim," Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said.

He said that Lim is now trying to create a dynasty in DAP by grooming his own son, Lim Guan Eng, to lead the party eventually.

Thus, it is clear that what the Spirit of '46 says arises from nothing more than frustration over not being able to be prime minister or cabinet members, he said.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir also asked why PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] is willing to cooperate with DAP if PAS truly wants to establish an Islamic state, since PAS leaders realize that DAP holds firmly to its secular ideology and opposes any Islamic measure taken by the current government.

PAS is willing to "sell verses from the Koran cheaply" merely for the political interests of its leaders, he added.

He said Islam will disintegrate if PAS cooperates with DAP, because PAS leaders do not conduct themselves like true Muslims and DAP leaders always oppose Islam.

ISA Arrests in Sabah Not Seen As Political

90SE0070C Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 17 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 16 Jun—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad declared that the recent arrests of three Sabah people under the Internal Security Act (ISA) had nothing to do with politics.

He said that the action was normal and that no question of discrimination or political motive on the part of the authorities has arisen.

He said the people of Sabah should not tie the arrests to politics, because such sentiments will cause problems for the Central Government and will create a bad atmosphere for relations between the state and the Central Government.

He said that, regardless of the status of a person, an arrest cannot be contested but should be viewed as a normal action, because an exception cannot be made for anyone found guilty.

"We do not want to make exceptions for anyone," he said today after chairing a meeting of the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Supreme Council at party headquarters here.

The prime minister was asked to comment on charges that the arrests of three men involved in a plot to pull Sabah out of Malaysia were motivated by politics related to state elections to be held on 16 and 17 July.

Sabah Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan had earlier questioned the arrests, which come at the time Sabah is excited about state elections, and said that he did not want the ISA to be used for political purposes.

Datuk Pairin also asked that the three detained persons be brought to court to be tried publicly.

Investigate

The detainees are Banabas Tapin, or Benedict, chairman of Sabah Air; Damit Undikai, executive secretary of the Kadazan-Dusun Cultural Association; and Albanus Yudah, a police force member from the Signal Unit.

The prime minister also noted that he, as a politician, cannot dispute such an arrest even if a politician is involved.

He emphasized that, whether or not a person supports the government, the government must investigate if he has committed a crime; and when an arrest is made, it should not be seen as discrimination.

"The Anti-Corruption Board, the Department of Inland Revenue, and the police are free to take action under the authority they have. Even a UMNO member was arrested. He was angry over it and joined the Spirit of '46," he said.

With regard to the issue of Sabah oil royalties, which may be brought up during the state election campaign, the prime minister repeated his statement that the government's intent has been to distribute oil revenues to other states.

He said that before oil was found in Sabah, oil revenues from Sarawak and Terengganu were used for development purposes in Sabah and that no one complained then.

At the beginning of this year, the prime minister commented on the desire of some people in Sabah that oil royalties be raised by 50 percent. He said that national revenues are to be distributed fairly and are not to be monopolized by the producer state.

Military Rebels Raise Funds Through Bank Robberies

90SE0074A Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 2 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] More than half of the bank robberies last year were committed in Metro Manila, with ex-soldiers being held responsible for some cases.

Senator Ernesto Maceda said he got the report during a briefing yesterday from security officials themselves, who showed the latest statistics.

The Metro Manila figure was 25 bank robberies out of the national total of 46, and the loot was P45.76 million out of a total of P75.69 million.

According to Maceda, the armed forces chief of staff, General Renato de Villa, admitted that former soldiers using firearms stolen from the military armory were behind some of the robberies.

De Villa could not say, however, if any soldiers in active duty were involved, Maceda noted.

Bank robberies are considered sensitive cases because soldiers plotting against the government are reported raising money this way.

Crime generally, Maceda said, was up 6.3 percent for 1989 from the 1988 count, and its average monthly rate of 20.76 incidents for every 100,000 population was 4 percent higher.

Murder, homicide, physical injury, robbery, theft and rape were the more frequent cases-index crimes. For 1989, these accounted for 63.8 percent.

Car thefts were even more lopsided for Metro Manila—547 out of the national total of 756.

Car theft is also linked to bank robberies—robbers usually strike using stolen cars.

Apart from Metro Manila, the crime rate was above the national average in Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas and Central Mindanao, said Maceda, quoting from the military report presented at the briefing.

Dissident Plot Set Back by Hit List Seizure

42000105A Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English
21 Jun 90 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Philippine Constabulary [PC] said it had disrupted a communist plan to assassinate more than 140 military men, civilians and foreign nationals in Manila over the next six months.

Colonel Agerico Kagaoan, chief of the PC Security Group, said the plan was neutralized when his men

arrested early this week 10 alleged members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade (Sparrows), the communist urban terrorist group.

The arresting officers raided rebel safehouses in Mandaluyong, Paranaque, Muntinlupa and Quezon City, capturing eight assassins and two intelligence officers, the colonel said.

Two of those arrested were shot and wounded when they tried to escape, Kagaoan added.

The raiders discovered several lists of Sparrow targets. According to Kagaoan, the lists included at least 10 military and police officers, more than one hundred policemen and soldiers, and civilians, mostly local businessmen.

There were also two American military officials, whose identities the colonel refused to reveal.

"The next month could have been bloody if we had not arrested these terrorists," Kagaoan said. A CSG agent added "babanat pa sana ang mga iyan ngayong Lunes o Martes [they will strike again this Monday or Tuesday]."

The raiders also found "accomplishment reports" on the killings of PC Col. Reynaldo Dino and former Rizal PC/INP deputy chief Lt. Col. Cezar de la Paz.

Dino, his daughter and two aides were gunned down last month in Kalookan; de la Paz was killed in Angono, Rizal in June of last year.

A copy of one hit list, obtained by the CHRONICLE, ran to four yellow pages; it included information on the targets' current assignments, the plate numbers of their cars, their addresses, and some details on their daily movements.

Another list had names of more than 30 police and military personnel and officials classified "as quality targets"—targets who had incurred "blood debts."

Ten of these targets were marked for liquidation in September, another 10 for October, and the rest were scheduled until December.

One of those captured was Noel Cruz, alias Dondi, whom the military said was the political and commanding officer of the assassination brigade's North Sector Command. He told his captors he was also the secretary of the Propaganda Staff of the same command.

Others arrested were: Amelia Cortez, alleged secretary of the finance and logistics staff of ABB's south sector; her deputy, Gloria Opiana; Steve Malabuyo, alleged team leader of one of the ABB teams; Fernando Pagal, Froilan Lingayon, Crislina Sanico, Samuel Carungay, Pedro Suarez and Ramiro Vargas.

Kagaoan said Opiana admitted she was one of the killers of police Col. Herminio Taylo, the former Makati police chief who was gunned down in 1988.

Pagal and Vargas were hospitalized for gunshot wounds suffered during the raid.

Among the ranking military and police officers marked for assassinations were:

Lt. Col. Manuel Porras assigned at Camp Crame; Lt. Col. Alejandro Yanquiling of the Western Police District; Col. Armando Lopez of Camp Crame; Col. James Bandong, formerly with the Capital Regional Command (Capcom); a certain Majors Barlongat and Castro assigned with the Capcom Northern Sector Command.

MILITARY

Building of Navy Suggested for New Situation

90E0223A Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN
DAN in Vietnamese Apr 90 pp 78-82

[Article by Admiral Giap Van Cuong: "On the Occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Vietnam People's Navy (7 May 1955-7 May 1990)—Naval Construction in the New Situation"]

[Text] The Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) has gone through 35 years full of challenges and military exploit. Receiving extreme care from the party and the state, and the enthusiastic assistance, cooperation, love, and protection from the people all over the country, it has fulfilled its glorious task and has enjoyed continuous growth.

On the occasion of this solemn anniversary, the VPN cadres and soldiers wholeheartedly thank the party, state, cadres and soldiers in the armed forces, and people throughout the country for their assistance in building a solid base for the VPN to fight victoriously and to build successfully.

The VPN was born in a period when the country was agriculturally backward, science and technology was undeveloped, the marine industry was negligibly small, and everything had to start from zero because of a lack of an established modern navy like that of other countries for it to inherit from. Moreover, in the years of fighting the war of destruction waged by the American imperialists' air and naval forces, because the VPN constantly was one of the targets for fierce enemy attacks, it had been encountering myriad difficulties in the course of its building and growth.

As we look back, a number of outstanding matters that existed in the course of our building the VPN's force make us think hard so as to find the direction for its gradual renovation:

- Because of many reasons, we were forced to build the navy to satisfy the needs of our tasks in each and every revolutionary period, in which those needs always were much greater than our real capabilities, particularly when the targets of our navy's combat activities at sea were modern and quantitatively large naval forces.

- Because the ability of the state and army to invest in the navy remained limited, the military branch mainly was built and developed in accordance with the assistance of fraternal countries; as a result, many matters in connection with it were far from suitable for our own realities. Furthermore, we had not had any plans and guidelines for basic investment being concentrated upon the key matters having to do with the steady development of the military branch and suitable for its ever increasing tasks.

- The navy had to be built from zero and first on a small scale, simultaneously to build itself and to shoulder

combat duties, and to experiment in order to choose a model for organization and equipment, while its combat tasks and protection of our waters and islands were very tense and often required profound changes in its organization and force to permit fulfillment of immediate tasks; the organization of the military branch, generally speaking, was far from uniform.

- The navy was a technical military branch having its own characteristics in terms of activities and combat, but many policies had not been fully studied in order to bring about appropriate solutions, nor were they closely coordinated with ideological and organizational work.

The above-mentioned matters were some of the main reasons behind the contradictions between the ever-increasing needs of our tasks and our limited capabilities that had been unable to keep pace with them. Time has come for us to seriously raise the question so as to gradually resolve them in a systematic, active, and firm manner, for the purpose of building the VPN to gradually become a strong force capable of steadily defending our sovereignty, waters, and islands, and to be ready, along with all the people and the army, to cope with any aggressive offensive acts directed against us from the sea.

In the present stage, new contents and forms have been added to the class struggle on a global scale. The tendency to open dialogues and to cooperate has increased. To maintain peace, to oppose nuclear war, and to fight the arm race is now the aspiration and goal of the progressive mankind's struggle. However, this does not mean that the nature and contents of the class struggle between the two socialist and capitalist systems have lost its decisive character, nor have national independence and the security of nations been assured. In reality, the imperialists and reactionary forces are using villainous and shrewd tricks against the socialist countries, plotting the annihilation of the socialist system throughout the world, and launching a decisive attack on the national liberation movement and the movement for peace and democracy.

For our country, the imperialists still are colluding with the international reactionary clique for madly fighting and undermining us, and trying to carry out the strategy of annihilating socialism and seizing in local acts islands in the Spratly Islands, for the long-term purpose of controlling the entire South China Sea and encircling and threatening countries in the region. The sea is really becoming an important strategic factor and is now a place where there exists a threat to our people's security, sovereignty, and right to travel and to do business in our waters and islands.

In terms of geographic characteristics, we have in our territorial waters both the sea and bays, the sea adjacent to the international sea, and a wide continental shelf, as well as islands and groups of islands very far from the coast, with the area of territorial waters being three times as large as that of our land. This fact has to do with

determining the organization and structure of our force, and the means and equipment to suit each and every part of these waters.

The new situation, new task, new needs, and the practical experience of our naval troops in 35 years of building and fighting should be the basis for thinking about and setting a direction for organizing and building our people's naval forces in accordance with a long-term plan, as well as taking appropriate steps to create for the military branch new capabilities, which would allow it to fulfill better its tasks.

In the present stage, to organize and build the army in general and the naval forces in particular must be suitable for the country's new situation—that is, there is in general no war throughout the country; the country as a whole concentrates on the strategic task of building socialism and developing the economy; peace, however, is not secure because the enemy has not abandoned the dark plot against our country; we must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to fight to respond to the needs of war under any circumstances. This is particularly true for the VPN as it is assuming the task of defending our sovereignty over our waters and islands, which are one of the "hot" spots that can easily explode to become a partial armed conflict or to start a war; consequently, to organize construction of the military branch must be suitable for the characteristics of the above-mentioned situation.

The strategy for building the VPN must depend on the strategy for building our national defense in the present stage, and the strategy of the state regarding the sea must be suitable for the new socioeconomic strategy. On the basis of the common goals and direction, the state and army determine the goals and direction for investing in building the VPN in accordance with the rate of progress of the national economy and the progress of science and technology in our country, and trying to have in the next two to three decades a naval force capable of defending our sovereignty over our waters and the far-from-the-coast islands. It is absolutely necessary for the naval branch to have strong units having modern equipment and all the needed forces operating on the surface and bottom of the ocean, as well as in the air; it must pay attention to building mobile forces sufficiently strong and highly ready for combat to operate in the important parts of our waters. The forms and sizes of these units and forces naturally must conform to Vietnam's situation and conditions and, first of all, satisfy the task of defeating the enemy in any aggressive attacks and assaults on the open sea.

The realities of the past 35 years have shown that to ensure stability and to gradually raise the capabilities of the VPN and the ability of its components to carry out their tasks requires appropriate gradual investment in the marine industry of the state, army, and navy. And it is absolutely necessary for the state to have unified leadership, to closely unite all enterprises, and to maintain uniform division of work so as to gradually move toward manufacturing our own means and equipment,

going from low to high level, and making some parts first and total pieces of equipment and various kinds of means later. In the case of the items that we still are incapable of manufacturing in our country, we should buy them abroad or cooperate with some fraternal countries for making them. While the economic situation of our country still encounters many difficulties, to invest in building a naval force capable of defending our territorial waters and far-from-the-coast islands is extremely costly and cannot be done within a short time; we must instead struggle hard and gradually in the next few decades, but this does not mean that we should wait until conditions would be favorable before doing the job.

About the structure and makeup of the branch's components, we must make sure that they are balanced and synchronized. This quality of being balanced and synchronized must exist within the branch itself, in each and every force and unit, among the branches, among the combat forces and the aid and combat support forces, as well as among the installations, both inland and at sea, in charge of ensuring their operations. The above-mentioned needs are not theoretical but rather practical ones because they have been based on the VPN's activities and construction. Because of many reasons, both objective and subjective, for years many parts of the branch's table of organization and equipment were far from balanced and synchronized. That prevented our naval forces from fully developing their effectiveness. On the other hand, our commanders and leaders at all levels encountered quite a few difficulties which limited their ability to make decisions and to show the determination to fulfill the assigned responsibilities; the branch's organs had to face many difficulties as they tried to develop the ability to ensure what would be needed in each and every unit. However, the most important matter was the fact that branches and their units encountered many obstacles in the common efforts to create a combined strength while fighting an enemy who was more numerous and had more modern equipment. We may say that the quality of being synchronized and balanced must be considered one of the topmost needs in naval construction. To say so does not mean that we should not concentrate efforts on a top priority basis upon perfecting the organization of our hard-core and spearheading naval forces in the important waters, islands, and coastal areas, and the so-called "hot" areas today.

A matter that deserves our attention at this time is that our navy and other branches of the army are building their forces in accordance with the common requirement—the number of regular troops being reduced and the demand for better quality being increased. To study, examine, and rearrange the organizations and forces in the entire military branch, from the command organs to naval zones, schools, military ports, and so on, to make them more rational is something we absolutely need to do. We must concentrate our leadership upon improving the quality of basic-level units and all organizations in the branch in a total and steady manner, particularly in the important parts of the territorial waters.

The most basic matter is to attach importance to building strong forces in terms of their political and ideological capacity and the level of combat readiness. We must on a regular basis educate our cadres and soldiers to make them further develop the proud traditions of the navy—"Fight heroically, with wit and creativity; be the masters of the sea; be determined to fight and to win"—and remain strong and unshaken under any difficult and complicated circumstances. In the face of changes in the world and regional situation, particularly the reforms, reorganization, and renovation in a number of socialist countries, as well as complex events, people are having doubts and worries; we must, therefore, concentrate efforts upon making our cadres and soldiers persist in carrying out the CPV's [Communist Party of Vietnam] line on socialist construction and on defense of the socialist fatherland. It is necessary to continue educating them so as to make them fully understand the party resolutions, especially the resolution of the 7th Plenum of the CPV Central Committee on ideological work; clearly see the reasons behind the situation; and thoroughly understand the nature of capitalism, imperialism, and their villainous plots and tricks aimed at destroying the socialist countries in general, and the three Indochinese states and Vietnam in particular. They must thoroughly understand the nature, craftiness, total destruction strategy, and other tricks of the international clique of imperialists and reactionaries as they are aimed at our country, and clearly see that the struggle for defense of national sovereignty has not decreased in intensity but has continued to take place in a more complex manner, and at times and in many localities has become very fierce and decisive.

All people in the military branch must correctly assert their ideological stand, maintain the worker class's position, remain determined and unshaken in the face of any changes in the situation, build a good spirit of solidarity and combat coordination within the branch, and have solidarity and coordination with the friendly arms and branches of the army, with the armed forces of the masses, with the people, party committee echelons, and administrations on islands, in coastal areas, and in the country as a whole, for the purpose of fulfilling their tasks. They must be determined to defend the objectives and ideals of the party and socialist state, and the achievements that our people have shed so much blood and expended so much energy to score.

The naval troops must be correctly aware of the responsibilities and honor that the party, state, and people have bestowed on the military branch because of confidence and affection, and strive to train themselves and to learn in order to raise the level of all aspects of their knowledge, first of all the knowledge of the sea and ocean in general, and the Vietnamese territorial waters in particular, which include the entire network of islands, far from and near the shore, and to provide realistic assistance to make the units' activities in the territorial waters and on the islands more effective and safer. On the basis of the currently available weapons and equipment, the VPN actively studies and

devises combat methods and activities suitable for the battlegrounds being the sea and islands to score victory in the tasks of defending our sovereignty over the territorial waters and islands. In training and in the work having to do with combat readiness and drafting combat plans, we must always combine modern naval knowledge with the actual experiences in river and sea fighting that have been learned with the energy, mind, and blood of our people and navy.

As we build the navy in the present stage, we must pay special attention to building and consolidating the reserve forces and naval forces among the people and state organs. By taking all the necessary measures and making utmost efforts, we should establish a strong naval reserve force consisting of all components so as to have, at a time of general mobilization, large numbers and fast concentration of troops, and the ability to fight without delay.

As our country's economic situation remains difficult, all naval cadres and troops must mobilize and help one another to achieve "keep them in good shape and make them last long" in the use of all currently available means and equipment. Users of weapons and technical equipment must strictly follow and apply all technical requirements in connection with their use, storage, and maintenance, and minimize breakdowns and losses resulting from their failure to observe all requirements for use and maintenance. The people in charge of production and repairs must ensure making fast and good repairs with the highest degree of responsibility and greatest ability possible. We must firmly and actively fight waste and corruption in all activities and spending having to do with the military branch's construction and combat process.

All echelons and units in the branch must think and find new directions, new ways to do things, on the basis of their political task and the changing realities in their own units, and particularly must see the things that urgently need renovation and also do their very best to guard against renovation being cut off from the revolutionary principles and direction. They must be in touch with all aspects of the realities at their level so as to think, to evaluate the right and the wrong, and to compare with the present situation in order to further develop what is correct, to avoid what used to be correct but is now unsuitable, to firmly correct wrong things, and to boldly do new things in accordance with principles, thus contributing to making the VPN grow larger and stronger in every way.

Regiment's Quality Affected by Relaxation, Poor Discipline

902E0221A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 9 May 90 p 2

[Article by Dang Van Hung: "Unit's Quality Declines Because Many Cadres, Party Members Pursue Relaxation, Lack Power To Persuade the Masses"]

[Text] Regiment 143, the former organization of the troops in Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province, joined Division 315 in 1979 and later had been fighting in and assisting

friendly Cambodia for 10 consecutive years. The 3-border area, with Hills 753, 743, 355, and so on, had marked the glorious exploits of this strong-as-a-tiger regiment in its 10-year period of gallantly fighting the enemy, bearing hardships, and always getting ahead of the enemy.

In September 1989, following the military operations that brought it home, the regiment was honored with a noble prize—"Heroic Unit"—bestowed upon it by the party and National Assembly. Afterwards, it was separated from Division 315 to be directly subordinate to Military Region 5 and was assigned the task of remaining ready for combat to back up the important defense of the military region.

The matter that I would like to mention in this article is the fact that, shortly after its return to the country, a tendency to relax and to act in a liberal manner began to show among the cadres and party members in Regiment 143.

The task that was assigned by the military region to the regiment was to quickly stabilize its organization, to concentrate efforts on improving the quality of training, and to build the material base so as to remain ready to carry out any unexpected task. After the regiment had returned home, with the conditions for stabilizing its organization being now more favorable, its commander should have gathered as many cadres as possible and invested their time in properly organizing the troops. But immediately after the return, the commander granted furloughs to up to 70 percent of his cadres and 100 percent of the soldiers who had been inducted into the army in phase I of 1987. That decision on the part of the regiment's commander was against the directive of the military region, namely, "Deal with applications for leave of absence one by one, not all at the same time." At the company and battalion level, at that point in time, there was only a single cadre being in charge of management of the unit. Even in the regiment's CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Committee, seven out of 11 members were granted a furlough; as a result, when the military region assigned an unexpected task to the regiment, the latter failed to issue a CPV Committee resolution as only three members of the Standing Committee were available for a meeting, and later a conference was held with 78 out of 200 party members attending it and with the results of its work being notified to the troops. In my conversation with Colonel Tran Kim Ngan, head of the Military Region 5 Organization Office, he had this to say: "The decline of the unit began with the failure to seriously carry out the directives of the Military Region commander on the part of the regiment's commander." I shared his opinion because the example-setting behavior of a commander would be an unannounced order to his men. If the superior cadres behaved according to their own convenience and failed to serve as a model for their men, the subordinate cadres certainly could not behave any better.

In the period from October 1989 to February 1990, we might say that was a period of five months in which the regiment's commander indifferently let his unit float freely, 11 daily training procedures were not maintained and importance was attached to neither discipline nor training and work principles. Its troops instead spent almost all of their time in 26 teahouses, which had been erected by private people around their barracks. They would walk to locations seven kilometers away to enjoy themselves and return to their unit around 2300 hours. It was quite common for them to eat in restaurants on credit, to spend nights in inns, and not to obey the unit's rules. Commanding cadres at all levels did know what was going on, but they were unable to say anything to their troops because quite a few of those cadres themselves, from the regimental level on down, would not have any concern for troops and would mind their own relaxation and free way of living. Vo Ngoc Luyen, the regiment's deputy commander in charge of political affairs and CPV Committee secretary, was nicknamed "the desk king" by his men. He seldom worked closely with the basic level. At the time of a fire ravaging Company 9's building, he did not take part in fighting the fire; many months later, he did not even come to inspect the location, in spite of the fact that the distance from the regimental headquarters to the company's was only 300 meters as the crow flies, 500 meters through a longer pathway.

The decline in the responsibilities of the regiment's command had great and direct effects on the lower-level cadres. The situation in which commanding cadres would leave their unit to enjoy themselves elsewhere, show no responsibility for their work, live a free and spontaneous way of living, and commit violations and shortcomings was quite common and involved such cadres as Dang Van Bang, commander of Company 6; Tran Chi Nen, secretary of Company 7's CPV Chapter; and Pham Ngoc Thanh, deputy commander in charge of military affairs of Company 7.

Through an investigation in Regiment 143, in my opinion the decline there started first of all with the failure of cadres and party members to stick to the honor system and training in discipline. In the regiment, 40 percent of all cadres at the company level, 80 percent at the battalion level, and 40 percent at the platoon level had had combat experiences. That was a good condition which the regiment's commander failed to exploit.

In March 1990, the CPV Committee of Regiment 143 met and drew a clear conclusion on nine major shortcomings which it blamed on the poor vanguard and example-setting role of cadres and party members and on their failure to develop a model for members of their unit. Quite a few cadres and party members no longer remained the brilliant role models for the masses to follow.

In February 1990, six teams of Military Region 5 cadres came to the regiment to study ways to save it from further declining and to overcome the weaknesses that had been showing in the past five months. Along with the CPV Committee conference to review the regiment's performance, they drew conclusions on each and every individual and matter. After these activities, the unit's men have been waiting for action on the part of the cadres and party members who hold key positions and other cadres and party members, except for those 21 cadres and party members who have been found to have obviously violated discipline and would need to be severely criticized and to offer strict self-criticism, and whose cases need to be considered, concluded, and handled in a proper manner. All of this still depends on a conference of the CPV Committee in charge of commanding the regiment to reach criticisms and self-criticisms, with the masses and unit's men taking part in offering opinion to the party members and cadres concerned. Therefore, answers concerning Regiment 143 must be issued by its CPV Committee and the collective of its cadres and party members. In my opinion, the integrity and honesty in recognizing failures and shortcomings and the willingness to correct them on the part of each and every cadre and party member of the regiment will be an important factor in restoring the reputation of a heroic regiment.

The military exploit of Regiment 143 in the 10 years of fighting and building to help a friendly country is something to be proud of. However, in the new period, if its cadres and party members do not continue to further develop its traditions, the latter will be waning in the concept and action of its men. Therefore, the lesson that Regiment 143 has learned in a rather profound way is this: The military exploit of yesterday cannot replace the tasks of today, and if cadres and party members fail to improve themselves and live in an unrestrained manner, they will pay a price for themselves right in a location considered peaceful, rather than on the front.

ECONOMIC

1990 Trade With Socialist Countries Discussed

902E0218B Hanoi KINH TE DOI NGOAI
in Vietnamese 15 May 90 pp 1, 3

[By P.V.]

[Text] Even though there have been major changes in political life and even though there has been a shift to a market mechanism, in 1990, the socialist countries and Vietnam have signed commodity exchange agreements. Although signing these agreements has progressed more slowly than in previous years, by the end of the 1st quarter, the work of signing agreements for this year had been virtually completed with all the countries (except Poland). The total two-way commodity exchange value of the agreements is 2,202 million rubles (973 million worth of exports and 1,229 million worth of imports). The two-way value with the Soviet Union alone was

1,759 million rubles. The main items exported by Vietnam this year include rubber, coffee, tea, peanuts, coconut oil, pepper, canned and frozen vegetables and fruits, and rice, frozen meat, art objects, rattan and bamboo goods, processed goods, and so on. We have imported gasoline and oil, iron and steel, chemicals, drugs, fertilizer, and insecticides. These are goods that are in great demand by Vietnam and other countries.

With the motto of sending goods to those places with which we have signed contracts, as of 20 April 1990, we had exported 163 million rubles worth of goods, or 17 percent of the plan for the year. Large quantities of certain types of goods have already been exported. For example, almost 90 percent of the cinnamon contracted to be exported during the year has already been delivered. About 51 percent of the frozen meat, 49 percent of the pepper, 28 percent of the coffee, and more than 24 percent of the art objects have already been delivered. Most of the goods exported during the 1st quarter were delivered to the Soviet Union. The value of these goods was 137 million rubles, or 18 percent of our obligation for the entire year.

Various countries delivered goods worth 207 million rubles to Vietnam, which is equal to 17 percent of the plan for the year. The total amount of SA fertilizer stipulated in the contract has already been delivered, 62.5 percent of the PVC has been delivered, 51.4 percent of the dyestuffs has been delivered, 42 percent of the insecticides has been delivered, and 34 percent of the iron and steel has been delivered.

Something different in 1990 is that during the 1st quarter, imports into Vietnam dropped 13 percent as compared with the same period in 1989, and exports by Vietnam increased three percent as compared with the same period last year. By the end of the 1st quarter, there were still many goods that had not been delivered to us. These included potash, asphalt, zinc, copper, and lead. Other goods were delivered late. The main reason for this is that those countries did not have goods. They are still in the process of changing their economic management mechanism, and they have encountered many difficulties. And because we lack foreign currency to lease ships, up to 20,000 tons of goods to be delivered to us are sitting in the ports of those countries.

From signing import-export contracts for 1990, it can be seen that almost all of our general corporations want to exceed the values stipulated in the agreements for handicrafts, art objects, and light industrial goods. As for the commodity exchange relationship between Vietnam and Poland this year, because we have not signed any contracts, our two countries will exchange goods for goods, with a one-way value of approximately 15 million rubles. As for the East German market, East Germany has reduced the amount of goods imported from Vietnam because of the flood of goods from West Germany. As for the Soviet market, we have always considered this to be the most stable market, and this is still true today.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union continue to exchange a large volume of goods with each other.

Trade Goals Discussed at Meeting Held by Commerce Minister

902E0218A Hanoi KINH TE DOI NGOAI
in Vietnamese 5 May 90 p 1

[By P.V.]

[Text] Following the meeting of leadership cadres from the departments subordinate to the former three ministries, on the morning of 24 April 1990 in Hanoi, Minister Hoang Minh Thang met with the directors and deputy directors of the general corporations, commercial corporations, and production and service units in the sector.

More than 150 people from almost 90 northern units directly subordinate to the ministry attended the meeting.

After listening to Vice Minister Le Kim Lang disseminate the state's policy on establishing the Ministry of Commerce and the decisions of the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the appointment of vice ministers in the new ministry and the immediate problems in organizing Commerce Ministry organizations, Minister Hoang Minh Thang discussed the main tasks of the Ministry of Commerce. He evaluated the situation in implementing the plan for the 1st quarter of 1990 and discussed guidelines and tasks for the 2d quarter and coming months.

With the motto, use production and business stability as the guiding idea, using every means possible, in 1990 the Ministry of Commerce is striving to hit the following targets: reach an import-export value of 4,552,000,000 rubles and dollars, of which exports are to account for 2,152,000,000 rubles and dollars; reach domestic retail sales totaling 4 billion dong; fulfill the commodity exchange commitments recorded in the agreements signed between Vietnam and other countries this year in order to increase the volume of commodities exported; and, from this, import the commodities and materials needed to support economic growth, stabilize production, and satisfy the consumer needs of the people.

In order to hit the above targets, the sector's immediate tasks are: to renovate the mechanism and policies in order to strength domestic and foreign commodity circulation; quickly increase retail circulation; reduce domestic inventories by expanding the retail sales network; quickly remove the materials and commodities now stagnating at the ports; soon clear up the export accounts for the 1st quarter of 1990; and look for possible solutions that can be submitted to the Council of Ministers to solve the problems that are blocking commodity circulation, with attention focused on the rate of exchange between the ruble and the Vietnamese dong, import-export tariffs, and import-export quotas. In particular, the ministry must soon conduct a study and submit documents to the Council of Ministers on the

functions and tasks of the Ministry of Commerce in accord with the guideline of having the ministry carry on state management tasks with respect to commercial business activities. Strategies to expand the sector's economy must be studied.

After evaluating the implementation of the sector's tasks during the 1st quarter of 1990 in the spheres of exports and imports, investment, domestic commerce, and materials, the minister of commerce mentioned the guidelines and tasks for the 2d quarter and coming months. He reminded the leaders of the units that they must concentrate on ensuring that there are sufficient reserves of goods managed by the ministry. In particular, steps must be taken to prevent price increases and major shortages, such as the shortage of sugar in recent years. There must be adequate reserves of flood prevention and control goods. Taking delivery of the state's strategic imports must be organized well.

Crossborder Smuggling in Minh Hai Continues

902E0217B Hanoi KINH TE DOI NGOAI
in Vietnamese 5 May 90 p 2

[Text] (VNA)—Citing the fact that "expenditures are difficult and the sector's budget has been balanced," in the past period many organizations and units in Minh Hai have organized things to buy goods that are prohibited from being imported across the border or by sea. Billions of dong worth of high-level commodities and luxuries have been brought into Minh Hai by ship in conjunction with transporting goods to neighboring countries.

Mass information organizations from the localities to the central echelon have frequently discussed the smuggling activities of state units in Minh Hai, but to date, nothing has been done about the individual units involved in smuggling activities. The economic public security cadres and forces have gone to great trouble to monitor illegal activities and arrest smugglers. The files on many crimes have been completed and sent to the echelons with jurisdiction for further handling of the case, but for some reason, the cases have fallen into a "terrible silence."

Units have argued that "if the Standard-of-Living Section of the Provincial CPV [Communist Party Vietnam] Committee can engage in smuggling, then every unit can engage in smuggling." Members of the provincial assault youth unit became involved in smuggling activities and were arrested by provincial and Ca Mau City economic public security forces on the night of 28 March 1990. They were caught in the act of transferring smuggled goods from Fishing Boat 207 of the provincial marine products sector to a truck. The items seized included more than 150 kegs of beer and 13 crates of 555 brand cigarettes. These goods had a value of approximately 30 million. Economic police officials also discovered about 300 kegs of beer and several dozen crates of foreign cigarettes that had been smuggled in by a unit subordinate to the district travel sector. The economic police are

trying to prove that 200 of the 300 kegs of beer sent to Da Bac Island were smuggled in by one individual in the district, that is, Tran Van Thoi.

After temporarily keeping quiet in order to form relationships with other countries, a number of units are now actively engaged in smuggling goods into the country. Are the control sectors at the central echelon aware of the fact that the provinces have given units permission to contact other countries, and have they given their permission? Or is this just a "provincial policy?"

The smuggling activities being carried on by units in Minh Hai have been discussed more than once in TUAN TIN TUC. But the Integrated Commercial Services Corporation subordinate to the Office of the Minh Hai Provincial CPV Committee, the Bac Lieu Zone 1 Marine Products Joint Venture Corporation, the Cultural Services Corporation, and the Assault Youth Union are still intentionally committing violations. When will action be taken to put a stop to these illegal activities and re-establish order and discipline in import-export activities in Minh Hai?

Report on Timber Export Corruption Case, Vice Minister's Involvement

902E0217A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
7 May 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by Nguyen Oanh]

[Text] During the past several years, forestry has made good changes and regularly fulfilled the planned norms given by the state, particularly those concerning afforestation.

However, along with the successes, many weaknesses have appeared in managing commercial production. The "explosion" in the export of timber and other forest products has created many problems.

Why Is the Export Quota 2.5 Million Cubic Meters of Timber? What Is Secret Here?

In a country such as Vietnam where the forests are deteriorating, it is difficult to understand why the export quota for timber in 1989 was so high. According to the state plan, the forestry sector felled 1.4 million cubic meters of timber in 1989. Felling so much timber is an abuse of the forests. Many forestry experts and forest managers have proposed reducing the amount of timber felled so that the amount felled is in line with the growth of the forests. Or a number of forest zones should be closed to allow them to regenerate themselves. But in the export "boom" of 1989, the timber export quota reached that figure, far exceeding the figure for timber felled. That does not include the 195,300 cubic meters of re-exported timber. From where was this timber obtained for export? Who was responsible for issuing this quota? These are the questions that people are asking and that demand an answer.

From statistics of the People's Forest Management Department, Ministry of Forestry, we have discovered many other things that need to be given attention. The provinces that do not have forests and the lowland districts lack timber, but they all have timber for export! A number of cooperatives have timber export quotas. In a number of sectors, a number of ministries not involved in economic affairs also have timber export quotas. Because the export quotas are so much greater than our timber felling capabilities, in many localities there has been a "hunt" for scarce timber, saplings and watershed trees have been felled, and trees in forest preserves have been cut. In many localities, there is fierce competition in buying and selling timber. There have been many instances in which private organizations have used the name of the state. If people have quotas but no timber, they must ingratiate themselves with those who have timber and be willing to suffer losses. Losses of afforestation money are very large. The Forest Management Department tracked down a cooperative in Tu Son District, Ha Bac Province, and recovered more than 30 million in afforestation money. There is much discussion in society about selling quotas and bribery when issuing quotas.

Looking at this, we have found that there are three circumstances in which quotas are issued:

Quotas are issued when this is proposed by the Ministry of Forestry.

Quotas are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs.

Quotas are issued when there is a letter from this or that person in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs or other organizations.

This is why, after the Ministry of Forestry issued Official Letter 2206 on 16 November 1989 on "issuing timber export quota documents," the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs could not issue [quotas]. The chairman of the Inspection Committee, Ministry of Forestry, could not do this either. What is secret about this?

The people hope that the issuing of quotas will be clarified and that the responsibility of each individual and collective will be examined in order to clarify what has happened and recover the afforestation money. At the same time, suitable measures must be implemented to prosecute the people involved.

The 96 Blank Permits Must Be Clarified

Forestry is a major economic sector. Vice Minister Than Trung Hieu was put in charge of a number of tasks, including the export of special forest products. Hieu used his position to request that the Planning Department (the department helps the ministry monitor and issue export permits) send 76 pre-signed permits to Office 2 in Ho Chi Minh City for him. Numbers (in the records) were used so that he could issue them to units in the south. It must also be said that after receiving export

quotas from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs, the export units moved each lot of goods. (When moving all or some of the goods, the unit must have a permit issued by the Ministry of Forestry to fulfill customs requirements.) Actually, these permits can be issued only after the sources of the timber and afforestation capital have been checked, but Hieu did not adhere to these procedures. Sending these blank ministry permits to the south was a mistake in state management. Actually, with his position, the vice minister should have enforced those stipulations strictly. But that was not Vice Minister Hieu's only mistake. In the south, he photocopied another 24 permits and issued them to export units.

As a result of Vice Minister Than Trung Hieu's decision to transfer blank permits, when he received a report from the People's Forest Management Department, the minister of forestry immediately convened a meeting on the morning of 19 November 1989 at Office 2 in Ho Chi Minh City. Attending the meeting were the three vice ministers and a number of cadres. After listening to the reports, the minister made decisions on 11 issues concerning inspecting and clarifying the export of valuable and scarce timber and the export of goods by a number of localities in order to soon solidify and bring order to the export of goods and achieve better results. One of his decisions was that the issuing of export permits must be made uniform through the People's Forest Management Department. At the same time, he requested Office 2 to seal up the blank permits and photocopies and send them back to the ministry. As a result of that meeting, Notice No. 2385 was issued on 20 December 1989, but to date, the Ministry of Forestry has not received a response.

The opinion of cadres and workers in the forestry sector and a number of localities is that one of the things that led to the destruction of the forests and the timber "disorder" in 1989 was the disorderly way in which quotas were issued by the Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs. The Ministry of Forestry, the (present) Ministry of Commerce, the domestic agencies at the central echelon and in the localities that export timber, and the people's forest management organizations must conduct investigations and recover the afforestation money. At the same time, they must investigate the issuing of quotas, particularly those blank permits, to see to which organizations they were issued, whether any bribes were paid, and whether quotas and permits were sold.

SOCIAL

Major Problems in Ho Chi Minh City Discussed

902E0226A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
15 Jun 90 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Kien Phuoc: "Ho Chi Minh City Resolving Three Major Problems To Advance"]

[Text] Beginning 1990, the socioeconomic, psychological, and ideological situation in Ho Chi Minh City was following an unfavorable trend with many difficulties

and disturbances, including not a few openly antagonistic and destructive activities by the enemy and those with no good will for the new system. Faced with this situation, three major problems or contradictions are presented that if properly resolved, meaning uniformly, simultaneously, and totally, will create additional public confidence in the leadership of the party and assist in strongly promoting advancement of the renovation task. This is active renovation of the party's leadership in the political, ideological, and organizational aspects precisely following the theme and spirit of the resolutions of the Sixth Party Congress and the Eighth Plenum of the Party Central Committee; cleaning up the socioeconomic situation, halting the stagnation in production and business, and creating the best conditions for promoting production, stabilizing market prices and guarding against every occurrence leading to inflation; and actively maintaining political stability and protecting the peaceful labor of the people in the city. In our opinion, these are three missions with both an urgent and immediate significance and a long-term strategy of organic and dialectic relations in the largest city of this nation.

Difficulties and Complexities Increase

Clearly, management of the city with the largest population in the entire country with concern for food, clothing, and housing, for seasonal disease prevention and treatment, for a thorough education for each child, for essential living conditions such as electricity, water, sanitation, etc., and for each family and each individual is a subtle and meticulous art and science absorbing all leadership energy and the public spirit of responsibility for the general interests of the 4 million people in the city. This heavy management mission itself, when placed on the shoulders of communists and administrations at all levels, is extremely complex and difficult due to the lack of experience and knowledge in this field.

The value and significance of the positive changes made in 1989, creating a confidence and pride for the city's party organization and people, should have been multiplied when beginning 1990. Unfortunately, in many aspects impacting upon the material and psychological lives of the people, many new difficulties and contradictions have appeared. Production is stagnant due to: shortages of capital and electricity; increased prices of supplies and raw materials; the spread of foreign, primarily smuggled, goods; failure of the management mechanism and cadres to completely escape the foundation and procedures of state subsidization; obsolete equipment and technology; additional bankruptcies, etc. Five months have passed and industrial output has reached only 33.8 percent and small industry and handicrafts 29 percent of the plan. From this, living standards and social psychology have partially declined, unemployment has risen, and additional difficulties have been encountered in the actual incomes of workers, teachers, retirees, and in the administrative and other career fields. We are clearly aware that during this period, both the party organization and administrative echelons are

seeking every means to alleviate the difficulties and are concentrating efforts to maintain production—the root for gradually meeting the strong challenges, and subsequently regaining public confidence in the renovation undertaking. This is also a tremendously complex aspect.

On the other hand, a number of cadres and party members, including some in authority, must pay a high price for their degeneracy and deviance. To any extent, this is difficult for those with an indifferent combat will, a lack of personal self-cultivation, disregard for the law, and a tendency toward selfishness and individualism.

However, social ideological and psychological complexities also originate from other directions. It is not difficult to find those who lack benevolence, stand idly by, are apathetic and fail to assist in the effort to overcome difficulties, but conversely consider this an opportunity for antagonism and disturbance. Public discussion has been held on not a few bad elements because the reactionary class has been unwilling to abandon its scheme to destroy the revolutionary undertaking of our people. The actions of a number of individuals in various religions (some religions have received much greater assistance from foreign countries) are clearly in violation of the law; and some people of taking advantage of so-called charitable activities to carry out an underlying political intention. Even a small number of individuals in the state apparatus and mass organizations have unilaterally accepted information on the unfortunate incidents occurring in a number of other countries, or due to discontentment, conducted activities inconsistent with the historic conditions of our country's revolution. It is impossible not to increase vigilance against the openly antagonistic and destructive activities of imperialism carried out by many routes, including business and tourism, to incite rebellion. While we respectfully support every good work of art, fine film and performance bearing the knowledge and esthetics of socialism, in every nook and corner of the city are sex video tapes of every kind, spreading violence, sexual desire, superstition and heresy, and unwholesome pre-liberation publications, directing mankind toward a life of urgency, pragmatism and existentialism, are now being displayed and sold in abundance. Undoubtedly, in both material and spiritual life, the interposition and contention between good and bad and between progress and backwardness is becoming more severe and complex by the minute and hour.

What Must Be Done?

Never as at the present time has renovation to affirm the leadership role of the party organization in the revolutionary undertaking had such a decisive significance. One important problem is to urgently streamline the party committee echelons and key cadre ranks whose political qualities, knowledge, experience, practical capabilities and revolutionary training are considered a gauge of public confidence and trust in the party.

The farther down toward the primary level and the closer to the people, the more one recognizes that love, support, and confidence in the party is extremely specific and continuous. If a communist party member sets a good example in the three standards above, there is nothing to dispute concerning the party's role in this task. Unfortunately, not a few cases reflect the contrary. Perhaps political ability in the leadership ranks is indistinct and shaky; perhaps those assigned leadership responsibility by the party and people lack knowledge and skill in their assigned area; perhaps leaders are unaware of the overall benefits and are bureaucratic, dogmatic and dictatorial; or perhaps cadres and party members lack the ethics of diligent administration, impartial justice, modesty, and simplicity. It may be said that the example setting and democratic spirit of the cadre and party member ranks are important conditions in the task of renovation and in rehabilitation of the party itself.

It is truly difficult to separate party rehabilitation from the struggle against negativism, especially corruption among part of the party and state cadres. The people will be extremely sympathetic to and praise the party organization if those involved and implicated in the Xacogiva and Thanh Huong incidents, accepting bribes in land and housing, covering up tax dodging and evasion, etc., are swiftly brought before the law. No one, no matter at what level, stands outside the law.

At the present time, the spirit of renovation is to create peaceful conditions, to seek every means of overcoming difficulties with a spirit of self-reliance, and to create an extremely high Vietnamese style to develop production and build the economy—the material framework for stabilizing every aspect, especially that concerning ideology. In Ho Chi Minh City, the distressing situation is unacceptable: 80 percent of the state enterprises are of the fair and substandard type. The small industry and handicraft sectors are extremely unstable. The material foundation for an economic takeoff still contains nothing worthy of consideration. Perhaps the city has long been busily concerned about coping with immediate matters. With a substandard infrastructure and increasing backwardness with the world, what hope is there of attracting foreign investment capital? The tourist year in the city may be considered bankrupt. The plan to make 1990 the year of the tourist is also filled with subjective factors. Of course, the observation above is not aimed at criticism for the sake of criticism. The problem is a need for alertly and accurately evaluating those points causing the substandard aspects and lack of experience in order to gradually overcome them and advance. This is only possible by mobilizing the intelligence of the 4 million people in the city, striving for central supervision in the overall economic and social strategy of the entire country, finding what is right, correctly investing in leading economic sectors, and urgently building an infrastructure as a foundation for raising the municipal economy and effectively accepting foreign investment.

The total renovation of Ho Chi Minh City can be successful if the entire party organization is of one mind and unanimous, and if all 4 million people in the city build as one man with a high sense of responsibility. However, this is impossible, especially during the present situation of neglect for efforts to resist the enemy's insidious and furious destruction and counterattacks, disregard for the indifference and idleness of part of the city's population, and all the kinds of arbitrary crime for which no effective preventative measures exist. More than ever before, political and ideological work must expose the organized plots, stratagems, and activities of imperialists who are conniving with reactionaries in the country to sabotage political security in the city, incite rebellion, and achieve the American postwar plan. It is totally impossible to overlook the criminal and economic offenses and social ills recently making order and security more complex. Along with that, it is impossible not to severely punish anyone in the state apparatus or out in society who disregards the law and discipline to destroy from within the prestige of the party and the superior nature of the new system. Initial results have been recorded: the discovery of a case of political connivance with a foreign country, the admonishment of political objectives, and the apprehension of a number of arrangements for sea departures; and experience gained in the management of foreigners entering

the city. On the cultural front, inspections have been held with the confiscation of scores of sex video tapes, thousands of foreign music tapes with reactionary themes, many bad publications sent from foreign countries, etc. During high point two of the attack on crime, more than 1,200 offenders were apprehended and 85 gangs were eradicated, especially those using anesthetics to steal vehicles, stripping jewelry in the markets, stealing in the countryside and on rivers, producing counterfeit papers, etc. During this phase, the city eradicated prostitution and gambling points in a series of stores and hotels, arrested 58 drug lords, etc. In economic crime, the city uncovered 15 misappropriations of socialist property and other major cases such as Thanh Huong, Xacogiva, the Toan Thang facility of the 1st Precinct, and CIDEK of the 5th Precinct, and is presently concentrating on investigating the involvement of cadres and the recovery of property and money for return to the people. Nevertheless, compared with the need for ensuring order and security, many limitations still exist and effectiveness is low. The problem presented is that protection of political security and social order and safety is not only an individual mission of the responsible sector but must become a movement of profound conscientiousness of the masses, and a task of the entire party and people.

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

14 Aug. 1990